Stan Lee PRESENTS: G.I. JOE A REAL AMERICAN HERO™

THE COMMANDER ESCAPES!

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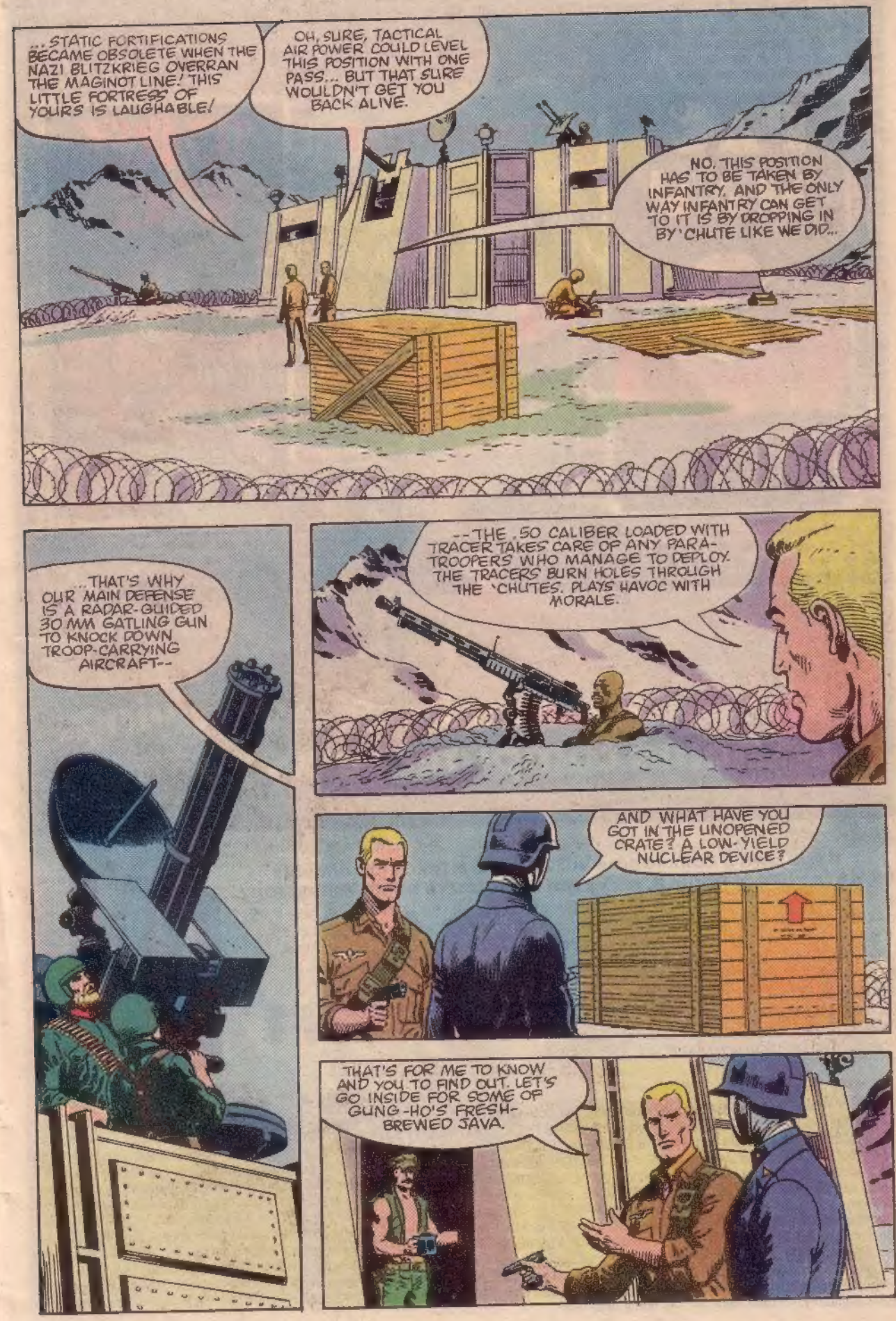
WHO'S ALONE? CHUCK ME THE CABLE REEL...
YOU GOT IT, GRUNT!
WHATTAYA SAY, WILD BILL? SHOULD I PUT DOWN THE LANDING GEAR IN CASE I MISJUDGE AND BELLY-IN?
THAT'S NEGATIVE THINKING, ACE, OL' PARD...

YOU KNOW WHAT I LIKE ABOUT THIS LOCATION? IT'S IMPOSSIBLE TO SNEAK UP ON...
...IF THIS PLACE WAS FORTIFIED, WE COULD HOLD OFF AN ARMY WITH FIVE MEN--
-- BUT THERE IS NO FORTIFICATION HERE! THIS PLATEAU ISN'T EVEN BIG ENOUGH TO LAND A CARGO PLANE ON TO UNLOAD BUILDING EQUIPMENT OR SUPPLIES!
YOU DON'T HAVE A CHANCE!
TIME TO TOSS OUT THE HOOK, AIRBORNE!
THE HOOK IS OUT!
SHE'S TIGHT ENOUGH, GRUNT. LET'S GO!

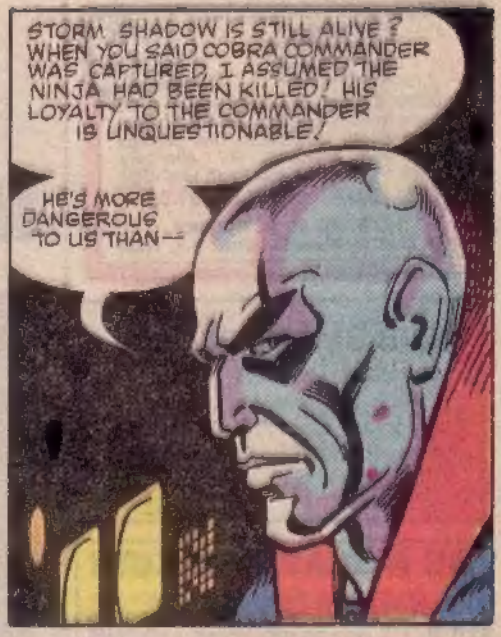
BETTER HUG THE FUSELAGE, AIRBORNE! THE CARGO IS ABOUT TO SHIFT--ABRUPTLY!
I'M ALREADY THERE!
WHOOMF!
JUST TO PUT YOUR MIND AT EASE, COBRA COMMANDER...
...WE'RE GOING TO HAVE YOU HELP US BOLT TOGETHER OUR FORTRESS!
PRE-FAB FORTRESS M-2A93

MEANWHILE, IN COBRA HEADQUARTERS!..
-- MAJOR BLUDD! YOU'RE EITHER A FOOL OR A MADMAN TO COME BACK HERE AFTER WHAT YOU'VE DONE!*
GIVE ME ONE GOOD REASON WHY I SHOULDN'T SHOOT YOU DOWN WHERE YOU STAND!
* BLUDD DID THE EVIL DEED IN G.I. JOE #16! -- DENNY
AM I REASON ENOUGH?
BARONESS! COBRA COMMANDER SAID YOU WERE--
-- DEAD? I WOULD HAVE BEEN, BUT MAJOR BLUDD RESCUED ME FROM G.I. JOE HEADQUARTERS JUST SECONDS BEFORE YOUR TROOPS BLEW IT UP
COBRA COMMANDER TRIED TO KILL YOU, DESTRO... BUT I BECAME HIS VICTIM INSTEAD--
WHERE IS HE?! I'LL--
HE IS A PRISONER OF THE G.I. JOE TEAM. COBRA COMMANDER IS NO LONGER A FACTOR IN OUR EQUATION. THE WAY IS NOW OPEN FOR THE TWO OF US TO TAKE OVER COBRA--
--THREE OF US, MY DEAR...THE NUMBER IS THREE.

LATER, IN NEW JERSEY...
--THE AIRCRAFT IN QUESTION RETURNED TO BASE AFTER AN ABSENCE OF EIGHT HOURS AND THIRTY TWO MINUTES. IT LEFT FULLY-LOADED AND RETURNED EMPTY...
McGUIRE FIELD
...HAVE POSITIVELY IDENTIFIED PILOT AND CO-PILOT AS MEMBERS OF THE G.I. JOE TEAM! AM STANDING BY...
...FOR FURTHER INSTRUCTIONS... OVER.
RESUME SURVEILLANCE AND REPORT DEVELOPMENTS. OUT.
SIR. THE COMPUTER HAS ALREADY PLOTTED THE ARC OF THE POSSIBLE LANDING FIELDS. THE ARC CUTS THROUGH THE ROCKIES--LIMITS THE CHOICES SEVERELY...
NO. A LANDING FIELD LONG ENOUGH TO ACCOMMODATE A C-130 IS TOO OBVIOUS. PROGRAM OUR SPY SATELLITE TO RUN A COMPLETE SCAN ALONG THAT ARC.
ANYTHING ELSE, STORM SHADOW?
YES. CUT A COURSE FOR THE ROCKIES. I WANT TO BE AT HAND WHEN THE INFORMATION COMES IN.

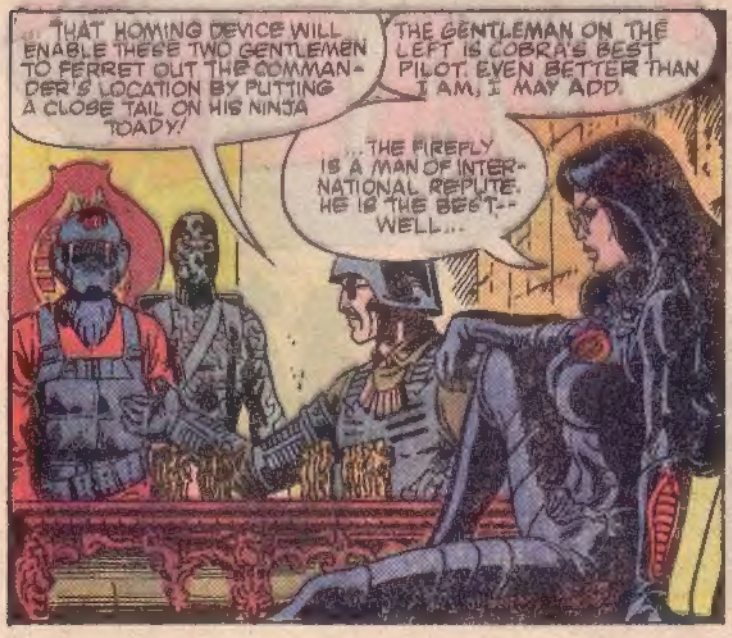

...STATIC FORTIFICATIONS BECAME OBSOLETE WHEN THE NAZI BLITZKRIEG OVERRAN THE MAGINOT LINE! THIS LITTLE FORTRESS OF YOURS IS LAUGHABLE!
OH, SURE, TACTICAL AIR POWER COULD LEVEL THIS POSITION WITH ONE PASS... BUT THAT SURE WOULDN'T GET YOU BACK ALIVE.
NO. THIS POSITION HAS TO BE TAKEN BY INFANTRY, AND THE ONLY WAY INFANTRY CAN GET TO IT IS BY DROPPING IN BY 'CHUTE LIKE WE DID...
...THAT'S WHY OUR MAIN DEFENSE IS A RADAR-GUIDED 30 MM GATLING GUN TO KNOCK DOWN TROOP-CARRYING AIRCRAFT--
--THE .50 CALIBER LOADED WITH TRACER TAKES CARE OF ANY PARA-TROOPERS WHO MANAGE TO DEPLOY. THE TRACERS BURN HOLES THROUGH THE 'CHUTES. PLAYS HAVOC WITH MORALE.
AND WHAT HAVE YOU GOT IN THE UNOPENED CRATE? A LOW-YIELD NUCLEAR DEVICE?
THAT'S FOR ME TO KNOW AND YOU TO FIND OUT. LET'S GO INSIDE FOR SOME OF GUNG-HO'S FRESH-BREWED JAVA.

...EVEN IF WE SUCCEED IN TAKING CONTROL OF COBRA, WE MUST STILL FIND AND ELIMINATE COBRA COMMANDER. HE SIMPLY KNOWS TOO MUCH!
FINDING HIM WON'T BE EASY. THE JOES WILL HAVE HIM WELL HIDDEN...
WHY DON'T WE JUST LET STORM SHADOW LEAD US TO HIM?


STORM SHADOW IS STILL ALIVE? WHEN YOU SAID COBRA COMMANDER WAS CAPTURED, I ASSUMED THE NINJA HAD BEEN KILLED! HIS LOYALTY TO THE COMMANDER IS UNQUESTIONABLE!
HE'S MORE DANGEROUS TO US THAN--

STORM SHADOW IS ALREADY ON HIS WAY TO RESCUE OUR RESPECTED LEADER. THE NINJA HAS BEEN MAKING EXTENSIVE USE OF COBRA'S COMPUTERS AND SPY SATELLITES VIA REMOTE PATCH-IN FROM A CONVERTED HEAVY BOMBER...

INDUSTRIOUS LAD, THAT STORM SHADOW, AND CLEVER, TOO. THAT'S WHY I PLANTED A HOMING DEVICE IN HIS SWORD HANDLE WHILE HE WASN'T LOOKING...


...THAT HOMING DEVICE WILL ENABLE THESE TWO GENTLEMEN TO FERRET OUT THE COMMANDER'S LOCATION BY PUTTING A CLOSE TAIL ON HIS NINJA TOADY!
THE GENTLEMAN ON THE LEFT IS COBRA'S BEST PILOT. EVEN BETTER THAN I AM, I MAY ADD.
...THE FIREFLY IS A MAN OF INTERNATIONAL REPUTE. HE IS THE BEST--WELL...

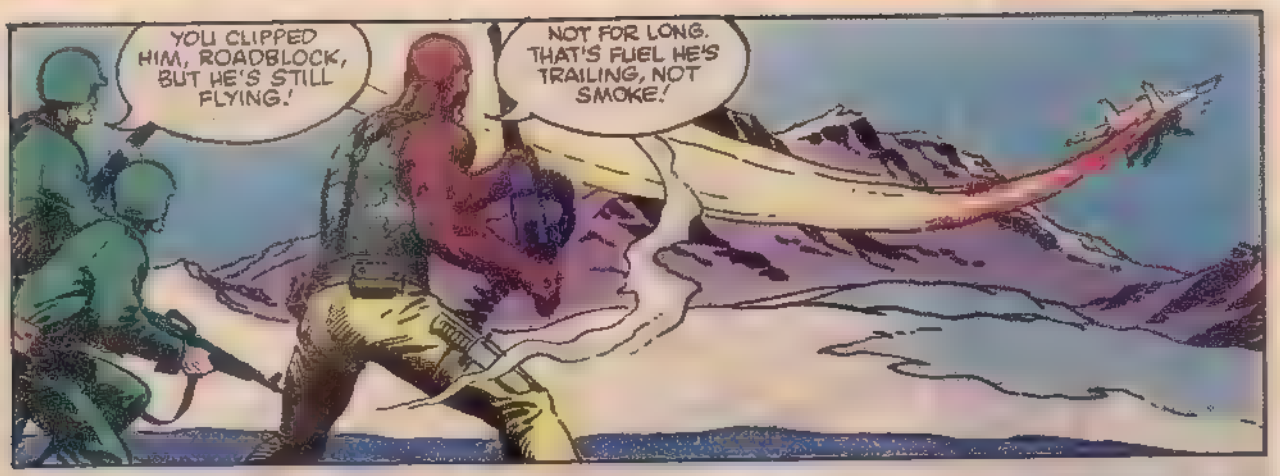
...LET IT SUFFICE TO SAY THAT IF THE PILOT GETS THE FIREFLY TO THE TARGET, THE RESULT IS GUARANTEED!

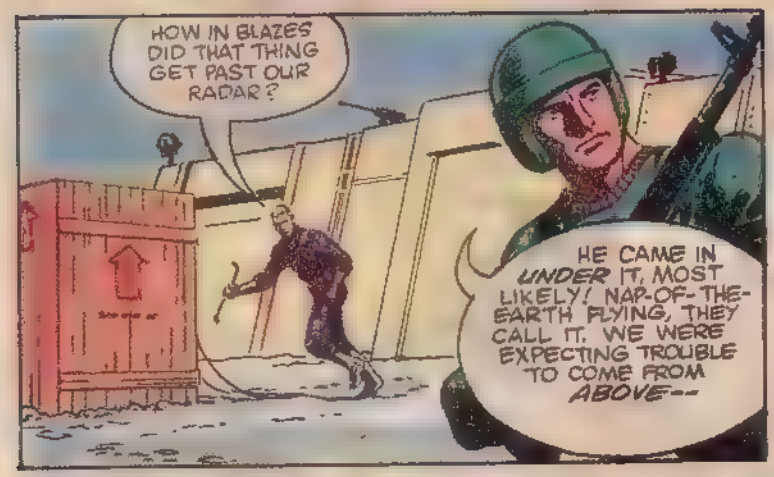
SO. YOU WANT TO DRINK THAT DELICIOUS HOT COFFEE? BETTER TAKE OFF THAT FANCY HAT--CAN'T SUCK IT UP THROUGH THE FACE-PLATE, YOU KNOW!
OH, NO?
I ASSURE YOU, THE CONSEQUENCES OF REMOVING THIS BATTLE HELMET WITHOUT THE PROPER CODE SEQUENCE WOULD BE QUITE UNPLEASANT...
... AND LOUD. TERRIBLY LOUD.
THE HELMET IS LINED WITH PLASTIC EXPLOSIVE. ANY TAMPERING WITH THE LOCK MECHANISM OR THE USE OF THE IMPROPER COMBINATION WILL RESULT IN INSTANTANEOUS DETONATION.
SON-OF-A-GUN.
WELL, YOU JUST KEEP YOUR PRETTY HAT ON FOR THE TIME BEING, WHY DON'T YOU.
WHEN THE TIME COMES WHEN WE REALLY HAVE TO SEE YOUR FACE, WE'LL JUST PULL IT OUT WITHOUT OPENING THE HELMET. I SUSPECT IT'LL HURT SOME.
GOT ANY MORE TID-BITS ABOUT YOUR HELMET YOU WANNA LAY ON US WHILE YOU'RE AT IT?
NO, NOTHING, I'VE TOLD YOU EVERYTHING...
... EXCEPT FOR THE SHORT-RANGE RADIO RECEIVER BUILT INTO THE EARPIECES!

WE'VE GOT A POSSIBLE IN THE PARK RANGE OF THE COLORADO ROCKIES. WE'RE RUNNING THE SATELLITE PHOTO THROUGH THE ENHANCER RIGHT NOW...
WE HAVE HERE A VERY CLEAR SHOT OF SIX MEN UNPACKING A LARGE CRATE ON A PLATEAU--ONLY THAT PLATEAU IS HALFWAY UP A MOUNTAIN 150 MILES FROM NOWHERE.
THAT FIGURE THERE... THE ONE HOLDING THE SOCKET WRENCH...
...ENLARGE THE IMAGE TO THE MAX AND RUN OUT THE PROGRAM FOR THREE-DIMENSIONAL ENHANCEMENT--
--PLOT OUT THE ENHANCED IMAGE IN GEODESIC SECTIONAL QUADRANTS AND ROTATE 180 DEGREES TO A VERTICAL PLANE.
AH, SWEET SCIENCE... A BOON TO VILLAINY THOU ART!
"THE LATEST READOUTS SHOW THAT OUR PRESENT LOCATION IS ONLY TEN MILES FROM THAT PLATEAU. WE COULD--
--STORM SHADOW!

EVERYBODY ANTE UP ONE B-2 UNIT THE NAME OF THE GAME IS FIVE CARD PROGRESSIVE JACKS OR BETTER
FIND A WAY TO GET OUTSIDE-- IN THE OPEN
IT'S VERY STUFFY IN HERE. I'D LIKE TO GO OUTSIDE
I'M OUT
I OPEN FOR TWO CHOCOLATE BARS
TOO RICH FOR ME.
I'LL SEE YOU AND RAISE A HAM AND LIMA GRUNT AND ROCK'N ROLL, GRAB YOUR WEAPONS AND ESCORT THE PRISONER ON HIS CONSTITUTIONAL
OK I CALL WHAT CHOO GOT?
IF HE MAKES A RUN FOR IT, DO SOMETHING PAINFUL IN 7.62 mm NATO TO HIS LEFT KNEE-CAP
I GOT A BOAT, LOW AND HARD DEUCES OVER BULLETS LEMME SEE YOUR OPENERS.
WHAT YOU SEE IS WHAT I GOT
A PAIR OF JACKS. WHERE'D YOU LEARN HOW TO PLAY POKER, IN THE MARINES?
DON'T ANSWER THAT QUESTION

WHAT'S THE MATTER? GOT A CRICK IN YOUR NECK?
UH... YES. THAT'S RIGHT.
YOU EXPECTING COMPANY? PARATROOPS MAYBE? YOU KNOW SOMETHING WE DON'T?
FOOL! A CLAM KNOWS MORE THAN YOU!
WHERE'D THAT GUY COME FROM?
HECK! WHERE'S HE GOING?
OH, HE SHOULDN'T OUGHTA'VE DONE THAT...
TZING!
TZING!
VIP!
HE KNOWS WE JUST GONNA SHOOT HIS SORRY BUTT DOWN!
RATAT
TATT
12


YOU CLIPPED HIM, ROADBLOCK, BUT HE'S STILL FLYING!
NOT FOR LONG. THAT'S FUEL HE'S TRAILING, NOT SMOKE!


HOW IN BLAZES DID THAT THING GET PAST OUR RADAR?
HE CAME IN *UNDER* IT, MOST LIKELY! NAP-OF-THE-EARTH FLYING, THEY CALL IT. WE WERE EXPECTING TROUBLE TO COME FROM *ABOVE*--

GIVE ME A HAND WITH THIS CRATE. IT'S TIME WE OPENED UP A CAN O' FIRE-FIGHT!

IT'S NO USE, STORM SHADOW. WE'VE LOST ONE WHOLE WINGTANK OF FUEL. WE DON'T HAVE ENOUGH TO MAKE IT BACK TO THE PICK-UP PLANE...
...UNLESS ONE OF US STAYS BEHIND.

ROCK 'N ROLL AND GRUNT STAY BEHIND AND MIND THE STORE I'M GOING TO CUT OUR WINGED FRIEND OFF AND KNOCK HIM OUT OF THE SKY.
ROADBLOCK AND GUNG HO BE ON THE GROUND TO TAG HIM WHEN I DO.
VOOOOSH
OF COURSE I WOULD NEVER LEAVE YOU HERE LIKE THIS IF I WASN'T SURE YOU WERE CAPABLE OF MAKING GOOD YOUR OWN ESCAPE. IT JUST SHOWS HOW MUCH I TRUST YOU AND--
JUST GO BEFORE I CHANGE MY MIND
I'LL SEND TROOPERS BACK FOR YOU. I MEAN IT!
MY, AREN'T YOU BOLD. BUT THEN, I NEVER DID TELL YOU WHAT WAS IN THE CRATE

RATATATA!
STORM SHADOW! HELP ME! THE JOES HAVE SOME SORT OF AIRCRAFT!
LEAD HIM TO ME. I'LL DEAL WITH HIM
ZING!
ZING!
YOU'LL BE WELL-REWARDED FOR THIS, STORM SHADOW -- I GUARANTEE IT!
-- JUST BRING HIM INTO THE CLEARING NEAR THE TALL PINE!
KLANK!

LOOK LIKE DUKE BE PLAYIN "CHICKEN" WITH THAT COBRA COMMANDER!
LOOKS MORE LIKE COBRA COMMANDER'S PLAYING SET-UP FOR A TURKEY-SHOOT. SCOPE CUT THAT TALL PINE AT THREE O'CLOCK
HUH?
IT'S THE COBRA NINJA! GIVE HIM A BURST FROM YOUR .50 CAL., ROAD-BLOCK!
HE'S TOO WELL COVERED BY THAT TREE! I'LL NEVER BE ABLE TO KNOCK HIM OFF THAT PERCH IN TIME..
THEN THAT TREE SHE GOTTA GO!
WHOMP!
FWEEEEE
FWEEEE

KA-POW!
BLAST! I'LL HAVE TO SHAKE OFF THIS PEST MYSELF!
NICE SHOOTING, GUNG-HO! NOW, LET'S GRAB THAT LITTLE CREEP BEFORE HE CRAWLS UNDER A ROCK--
OUR SENSORS HAVE PICKED UP AN EXPLOSION IN THE TREELINE! THE COMMANDER MAY BE IN DANGER...
IT'S ALL UP TO YOU BRING BACK THE COMMANDER!
ALL HAIL MIGHTY COBRA!

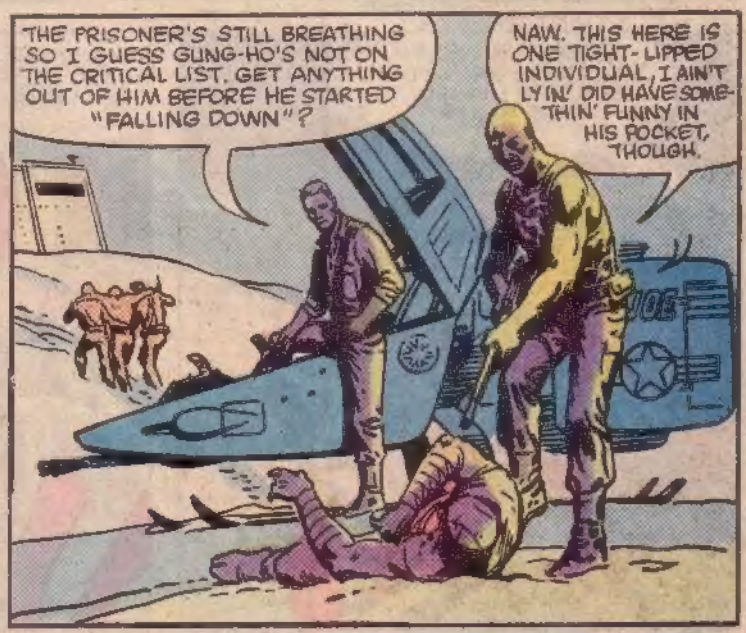
NOBODY WALKS AWAY FROM A FRAGGIN' AND A FALL LIKE THAT UNHURT. HE'S GONE TO GROUND TO LICK HIS WOUNDS...
FUNNY THING ABOUT HIS TRACKS
THEY BE STOPPIN DEAD LIKE HE JUST VANISH!
GOTTA BE A TRICK HE EITHER WALKED BACKWARDS ON HIS OWN TRACKS, OR--
...HE WENT STRAIGHT UP!
UUNNGGHH!!
FASHHHH!

THAT'S IT JUST FILL UP THE CIRCLE AND--
RATATATA
PING PING PING
F.A.N.G. COPTERS! THEY'VE NEVER SEEN A G.I.JOE SKY-HAWK IN ACTION BEFORE!
THEY DON'T KNOW WHAT I CAN DO--
--THIS!
FOOSH FOOSH
KA-BOOM
BOOM
NOW WHERE DO YOU SUPPOSE A COMMANDER GO OFF TO?

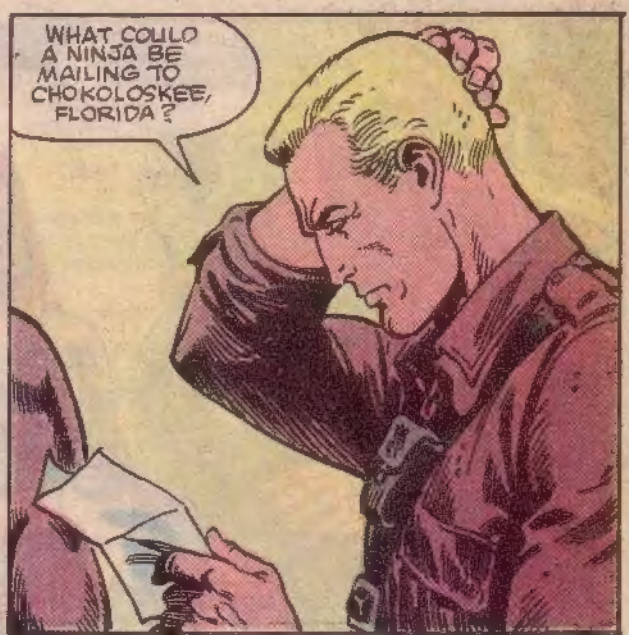
A PICK-UP PLANE! AND I'M OUT OF MISSILES!
I HAVE TO GET CLOSE ENOUGH TO USE MY MACHINE GUNS!
WELL, IF I CAN'T SHOOT THE LITTLE ONE, I MIGHT AS WELL TAKE A SHOT AT THE BIG ONE!
RATATATAT!!
NOW THERE GOES A CLASSIC FISHIN' STORY...
..." I ALMOST HAD THE LITTLE ONE WHEN THE BIG ONE CAME ALONG AND SWALLOWED IT WHOLE AND SWAM AWAY! "

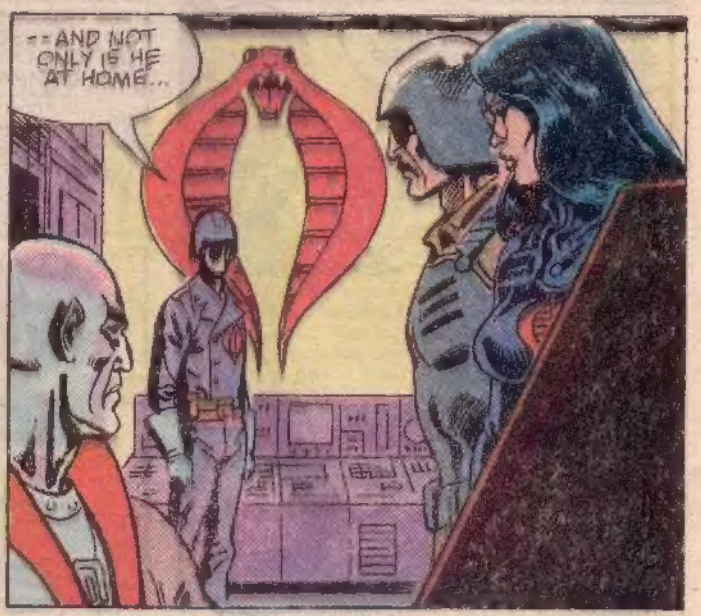
WHAT HAPPENED TO GUNG-HO?
OH, HE JUST GOT HIMSELF CUT A BIT. HE'LL BE ALL RIGHT...
DIABLE! I'VE HAD WORSE IN THE BAYOU FROM CREOLES WITH THEIR BOWIE KNIVES!

WHAT HAPPENED TO THIS GUY? LOOKS LIKE SOMEBODY LA MACHINED HIS FACE!
I DUNNO. DUDE KEPT FALLIN' DOWN. WASN'T MY FAULT.


THE PRISONER'S STILL BREATHING SO I GUESS GUNG-HO'S NOT ON THE CRITICAL LIST. GET ANYTHING OUT OF HIM BEFORE HE STARTED "FALLING DOWN"?
NAW. THIS HERE IS ONE TIGHT-LIPPED INDIVIDUAL, I AIN'T LYIN' DID HAVE SOMETHIN' FUNNY IN HIS POCKET, THOUGH.

WHATTA YA MAKE OF THIS? KIND'A LATE TO BE MAILIN' CHRISTMAS PRESENTS!
EXPRESS
CHOKOLOSKEE FLORIDA


WHAT COULD A NINJA BE MAILING TO CHOKOLOSKEE, FLORIDA?



NEXT ISSUE

THE STRANGEST, DEADLIEST FOE THE JOES HAVE EVER FACED... THE INCREDIBLE...

ZARTAN!

MARVEL
G.I.JOE
A REAL AMERICAN HERO!
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